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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 187010

DAKAR FOR ASSIST. SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, BAID, SHUM, GV

SUBJECT: MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE KEITA'S COMMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

1. MINISTER KEITA MET WITH AID OFFICIALS BOTH MORNING AND AFTERNOON JULY 21 TO DISCUSS THE AGRICULTURAL TRAINING PROJECT (REPORT ON THOSE MEETINGS FOLLOW BY SEPTEL). AT A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARROP, THE MINISTER RESPONDED AT SOME LENGTH TO HARROP'S COMMENTS ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY. OBVIOUSLY GRASPING THE LINK BETWEEN U.S. DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND GUINEAN DOMESTIC HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS, KEITA ELABORATED ON THE REASONS FOR THE GAP BETWEEN DEVELOPMENT
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IN AFRICA VERSUS THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD, AND LINKED THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO THE OVERWHELMINGLY IMPORTANT PRIORITIES ASSIGNED TO SATISFYING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS OF THE GUINEAN PEOPLE. REFERRING TO THE NEED FOR AFRICANS TO RECREATE THEIR OWN IDENTITY AND SENSE OF HISTORY AFTER YEARS OF COLONIAL DOMINATION, KEITA SAID THAT HISTORICAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY

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THAT HISTORY DETERMINIED HOW THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS TREATED. EVERY COUNTRY, HE CONTINUED, HAS A DIFFERENT CONCEPTION OF THE "RIGHTS OF MAN," RESULTING FROM THEIR PARTICULAR HISTORY. THE U.S., THE GERMANS, THE FRENCH,

AND THE GUINEANS, ALL SAW THESE RIGHTS IN A DIFFERENT CONTEXT. THE QUESTION, HOWEVER, WAS AN IMPORTANT ONE, AS BOTH PRESIDENTS TOURE AND CARTER SHARED AN INTEREST IN PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS. KEITA SAID, SO IMPORTANT WAS THIS ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THAT IT WAS SCHEDULED TO BE A MAJOR ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT CONGRESS OF THE PDG.

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